

Honorable members of the Finance, Revenue, & Bonding Committee,

My name is Arthur Daigle and I am a resident of Plymouth, Connecticut.

I am expressing my **opposition** to **H.B. 5653 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GUN VIOLENCE AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM GRANTS.**

My first issue with this bill is that it does nothing to curb gun violence. By law in the state of Connecticut. I need a pistol permit or eligibility certificate to purchase ammunition. Permit holders are not the problem and never have been. Criminals can't walk into a store and buy ammunition.

The second issue with this bill, is it discriminates against lower income families, especially those in urban areas, and single parents who are struggling just to get by in this economy. It makes it hard for them to properly train with their firearms and defend their homes and children.

The third issue is, it will also hurt the small businesses in this state that sell ammunition. Small businesses are the backbone of any vibrant economy. However, passage of this bill will cause people to travel out of state to purchase ammo and ultimately cost Connecticut revenue.

Lastly and most troubling is that it's insulting to law abiding citizens of this State, Representative Gilchrest has stated that *"It's about time gun owners paid their fair share"*. **Really?** We already contribute taxes above at a non-gun owner rate. Plus, we pay licensing fees every 5 years for the privilege of exercising both state and federal constitutional right. On top of that there is an 11% excise tax on ammunition plus the standard sales tax on firearms, ammunition, and accessories. Representative Gilchrest believes that somehow the gun violence is our fault and we should pay more?

I have done nothing but exercise my constitutionally protected rights. And somehow the gun violence is my fault? This is offensive! Especially seeing that illegal firearms charges are the first to be dropped by Prosecutors. What action are you taking to curb the Prosecutors poor choices? Where is the accountability for Prosecutors?